

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 IO-14 AID-20 IGA-02 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 DRC-01

NIC-01 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /176 W
----- 090030

R 301250Z MAY 74

FM AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2584

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, MZ

SUBJECT: MOZAMBIQUE PRESS MOVES LEFT

REF: A) LOURENCO MARQUES 313 (NOTAL); B) LOURENCO MARQUES
A-30; C) LOURENCO MARQUES 320; C) LOURENCO
MARQUES 325, 323

1. SUMMARY: WITH NEW EDITORIAL MANAGEMENT OF SOME MEDIA,
AND INCREASING PRESSURES ON OTHERS, MOZAMBIQUE PRESS AND
RADIO SEEM TO BE MOVING IN DIRECTION OF NEW UNIFORMITY
REFLECTING VIEWS OF POST-REVOLUTIONARY ESTABLISHMENT,
SIMILAR TO ROLE IT PLAYED AS DEFENDER OF CAETANO ESTABLISH-
MENT BEFORE APRIL 25. THE NEW LINE ENDORSES VIEWS OF SO-
CALLED MOZAMBIQUE DEMOCRATS AND GROUPS TO LEFT, PRESENTING
FRELIMO AS MULTIRACIAL, SOCIAL-DEMOCRATIC ORGANIZATION TO
WHICH, AS ONLY AUTHENTIC REPRESENTATIVE OF MOZAMBICAN
"PEOPLE", POWER SHOULD BE TRANSFERRED AS EXPEDITIOUSLY AS
POSSIBLE. IN PROCESS, OPPOSING VIEWS ARE INCREASINGLY
SUBMERGED OR VILIFIED AS CONTAMINATED WITH "FASCISM". WHILE
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PROCESS FAR FROM COMPLETE, IT BEGINS TO LOOK AS IF SPRING-

TIME OF MOZAMBIQUE FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION MAY PROVE A SHORT ONE. END SUMMARY.

2. SINCE OUR PRESS REPORT OF MAY 7 (REF A), MOVEMENT OF PRESS TOWARDS NEW UNIFORMITY HAS BEEN ACCENTUATED. THIS TELEGRAM SUMMARIZES RECENT DEVELOPMENTS, AND UPDATES BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON MEDIA SUBMITTED REF B.

3. LOURENCO MARQUES LEADING DAILY NOTICIAS, OWNED BY BNU AND TRADITIONAL SPOKESMAN FOR ADMINISTRATION, CAME UNDER NEW EDITORIAL DIRECTION MAY 29, WHEN MIDDLE-AGED, STUFFY DIRECTOR AVELINO DE ARAUJO DANTAS (FROM METROPOLE AND BUSINESS-ORIENTED) WAS REPLACED BY 31 YEAR-OLD DR. PEDRO PEREIRA COUTINHO (MOZAMBIQUE-RAISED, WITH LEGAL AND JOURNALISTIC - DIARIO DE LISBOA - BACKGROUND). AS EDITORIAL DIRECTOR (CHEFE DE REDACCAO), NOTICIAS HAS CHOSEN JOSE CARLOS DE AREOSA PENA, STRONGLY FAR LEFTIST JOURNALIST FORMERLY WITH LIBERAL NEWS-WEEKLY TEMPO (WHICH HE LEFT AND TRIED TO WRECK), AND MOST RECENTLY CORRESPONDENT FOR LISBON EXPRESSO, WHERE HE HAS GIVEN UNCOMPROMISING SUPPORT TO MOZAMBIQUE DEMOCRATIC GROUP AND TO FRELIMO, AND DENOUNCED ALL OTHER GROUPS AND TENDENCIES (INCLUDING PAPER OF WHICH HE NOW EDITOR) AS REACTIONARY AND TAINTED. FIRST ISSUE UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT APPEARED WITH MASTHEAD AND LOGO PRINTED IN RED INSTEAD OF BLACK (FOR FIRST TIME IN OUR KNOWLEDGE), AND SLOGAN ALONG BOTTOM OF FRONT PAGE READING "A UNITED PEOPLE WILL NEVER BE VANQUISHED". IN FRONT PAGE EDITORIAL HEADED "IN SERVICE OF DEMOCRACY", DIRECTOR COUTINHO PROMISED THAT FACE-LIFTED JOURNAL WOULD DEFEND THE PEOPLE AND "THE SOLUTIONS IT WANTS" AGAINST ALL OBSTACLES AND WARNED THAT FOR NEWSPAPERS AS WELL AS FOR PEASANTS, WORKERS, SOLDIERS, PROFESSORS, ETC., "ALOOFNESS OR ANY OTHER FORMS OF ABSTENTIONISM CONSTITUTE SO MANY MANEUVERS AT SABOTAGING DEMOCRACY." EDITORIAL CONCLUDES BY PROMISING NOTICIAS WILL ALLY ITSELF WITH ALL THOSE IN MOZAMBIQUE WHO WANT PEACE, PROGRESS FOR ALL AND NOT JUST A FEW, AND RECOGNITION OF RIGHTS DESPISED BY FASCISM AND COLONIALISM. EVEN BEFORE COMING UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT, NOTICIAS WAS GIVING INCREASING UNCRITICAL SPACE TO MOZAMBIQUE DEMOCRATS AT EXPENSE OF OTHER LOCAL GROUPS.

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RM AFTERNOON DAILY TABLOID TRIBUNA (ALSO OWNED BY BNU), HAD BEEN DIRECTED BY FRANCISCO AMARO MONTEIRO (CONSERVATIVE, INTELLECTUAL MONARCHIST) UNTIL HE BECAME DIRECTOR OF INFORMATION AND TOURIST CENTER (CIT) A FEW MONTHS BEFORE REVOLUTION, AND SUBSEQUENTLY BY PERRY VIDAL, INEFFECTUAL SECRETARY OF NOTICIAS. IT TOO HAS COME UNDER NEW EDITORIAL MANAGEMENT EFFECTIVE MAY 29. NEW DIRECTOR IS RUI KNOPFLI, 42 YEAR-OLD, MOZAMBIKAN-BORN EUROPEAN, POET AND PHOTOGRAPHER,

AND NEW SECRETARY/GENERAL IN JOURNALIST FERNANDO MAGALHAES. IN TAKEOVER EDITORIAL CONSIDERABLY LESS MILITANT THAN THAT IN NOTICIAS, KNOPFLI SAID TRIBUNA WOULD COLLABORATE WITH PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT BUT WOULD NOT BE COLLABORATIONIST, WOULD TELL TRUTH AS IT SAW IT, AND THAT SHAREHOLDERS HAD PROMISED NOT TO INTERFERE EDITORIALLY.

5. ON MAY 28, IN RADIO ROUNDTABLE, NEW DIRECTORS OF NOTICIAS AND TRIBUNA (PLUS EX-POLITICAL PRISONER DIRECTOR OF VOZ DE MOZAMBIQUE, AFRICAN LANGUAGE RADIO STATION) PROMISED TO DEVOTE THEIR MEDIA ORGANS TO "POLITIZATION OF THE PEOPLE".

6. TRIBUNA'S FORMER DIRECTOR AMARO MONTEIRO RESIGNED, UNDER PRESSURE, FROM CIT MAY 29. A MAN GIVEN TO RECURRENT DEPRESSION, MONTEIRO IS REPORTEDLY IN DESPAIR ABOUT CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS. HE HAS BEEN PET TARGET OF MOZAMBIQUE DEMOCRATS AS SUPPOSED "FASCIST" (WHICH HE PROBABLY NEVER WAS), LARGELY BECAUSE OF 1969 INCIDENT WHEN AS ACTING NOTICIAS EDITOR, HE PUBLISHED (ON GOVERNMENT INSTRUCTIONS) AN ALLEGEDLY FORGED LETTER FROM FRELIMO OFFERING SUPPORT TO OPPOSITION CANDIDATES (NOW MOZAMBIQUE DEMOCRATS) IN NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS, THUS EFFECTIVELY SABOTAGING WHATEVER CHANCES THEY MAY HAVE HAD.

7. CHURCH-OWNED DIARIO, CONSERVATIVE BUT GENERALLY NON-POLITICAL, HAS SHOWN NO MARKED CHANGES SINCE REVOLUTION, THOUGH LIKE ALL PAPERS, ITS PAGES REDUCED BY SERIOUS NEWS-PRINT SHORTAGE. DIRECTOR-PRIEST LUIS DOS SANTOS (LONG-TIME MEMBER PORTUGUESE UN DELEGATIONS) REPORTEDLY GRAVELY ILL IN HOSPITAL.

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 IO-14 AID-20 IGA-02 CIAE-00

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RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 DRC-01

NIC-01 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /176 W
----- 090068

R 301250Z MAY 74
FM AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES
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8. BEIRA DAILY NOTICIAS DA BEIRA, OWNED BY INDUSTRIALIST-CUM-POLITICIAN JORGE JARDIM, HAS BEEN SUFFERING FROM INTERNAL STAFF TROUBLES AS WELL AS PRESSURES BY DEMOCRATS AGAINST JARDIM, WHO IS CONSIDERED BY THEM AS SINISTER AND TAINTED WITH OLD REGIME. JARDIM, WHO IS IN LISBON AND WIDELY RUMORED TO BE UNDER HOUSE ARREST, HAS SO FAR KEPT CONTROL OF PAPER. IN TELEPHONED MESSAGE FROM LISBON PUBLISHED MAY 28, HOWEVER, HE LAMENTED HIS INABILITY TO ANSWER CALUMNIES NOW BEING MADE AGAINST HIM BY THOSE "WHO SEEM TO HOLD A MONOPOLY ON DEMOCRACY THERE," AND SATIRICALLY HOPED THEY WOULD BE AS COURAGEOUS WHEN AN OPEN INVESTIGATION OF EVERYBODY'S ACTIONS BECAME POSSIBLE. TIED IN WITH NOTICIAS DA BEIRA IS JARDIM-CONTROLLED AFRICAN-ORIENTED WEEKLY, VOZ AFRICANA, WHOSE EX-FRELIMO EDITOR, MIGUEL MURUPA, HAS DISAPPEARED FROM EDITORIAL VIEW SINCE HIS HOUSE STONED BY WHITES SEVERAL WEEKS AGO.

9. LOURENCO MARQUES WEEKLY VOZ DE MOCAMBIQUE, ALWAYS AT LEFT END OF LOCAL PRESS SPECTRUM, HAS NOW BECOME VIRTUAL ORGAN (IF SELF-PROCLAIMED) OF FRELIMO, AND OF FAR-LEFT IN GENERAL.
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QPM RADIO CLUB, WHICH OPERATES ALL BUT TWO BROADCAST STATIONS IN MOZAMBIQUE, HAD REPLACED PRE-REVOLUTIONARY DIRECTORS, AND VARIOUS OF ITS STAFF HAVE TAKEN TO THE COLUMNS OF NEWSPAPERS TO COMPLAIN OF ALLEGED REACTIONARY BEHAVIOR BY STATION BEFORE AND AFTER APRIL 25, THOUGH EVERYTHING WE HAVE HEARD HAS BEEN STRICTLY PRO-REVOLUTION (SEE REF C). GENERALLY BELIEVED THAT RADIO, WHICH RUN BY NONPROFIT PRIVATE CORPORATION, WILL BE TAKEN OVER BY GOVERNMENT, BUT FIRM EDITORIAL LINE HAS NOT EMERGED.

11. AMONG FEATURES OF NEW "LINE" WHICH SEEMS INCREASINGLY ADOPTED BY PRESS ARE SANITIZATION OF FRELIMO AND DENIGRATION OF GUMO AND OTHER POTENTIAL THIRD FORCES ON POLITICAL SCENE. ASIDE FROM HOPEFULLY SUGGESTING THAT FRELIMO LEADERSHIP REALLY CONSISTS OF NICE GUY SOCIAL DEMOCRATS TRULY COMMITTED TO MULTIRACIALISM IN WHICH WHITE MOZAMBICANS CAN PROSPER, PRESS DOWNPLAYS CONTINUED FRELIMO ATTACKS ON CIVILIANS IN

BEIRA-VILA PERY AREA AND AT TIMES CASTS DOUBT ON THEIR EXISTANCE. THUS, MASSACRE OF AFRICAN CIVILIANS ON GAZELA BUS SOUTH OF INCHOPE (REF D) HAS BEEN HOPEFULLY ATTRIBUTED TO DGS OR WHITE-REACTIONARY PROVACATEURS (THIS VIEW ADVANCED, AMONG OTHERS, BY ALLEGED BROTHER OF FRELIMO LEADER JOAQUIM CHISSANO WHO WAS PASSENGER ON BUS); WE GATHER, HOWEVER, THAT FRELIMO HAS ADMITTED THE ATTACK THOUGH INSISTING THAT CIVILIAN CASUALTIES WERE ACCIDENTAL. (LATTER NOTION IS BALONEY, BUS DRIVERS TOLD AMERICAN MEDICAL MISSIONARY WHO TREATED THEM THAT ATTACKERS OPENED FIRE WITHOUT WARNING AND RUTHLESSLY GUNNED DOWN AFRICAN CIVILIANS SEEKING TO ESCAPE).

12. GUMO IS TREATED WITH INCREASING SCORN AS TAINTED BY OLD REGIME, TRIBALISTIC, AND POLITICALLY DEVISIVE. JOANA SIMIAO IS DENOUNCED AS PIDE/DGS AGENT. NOTICIAS HAS BEEN RUNNING WHAT SEEMS TO BE CALCULATED (IF MASKED) CAMPAIGN AGAINST JORGE ABREU, GUMO'S PRINCIPAL EUROPEAN MEMBER, WITH LETTERS OF COMPLAINT AND ARTICLES ALL TENDING TO PROVE, GENERALLY BY INNUENDO, THAT HE IS RACIST AND SNOB.

13. COMMENT: THAT FULL PRESS FREEDOM MIGHT BE ATTAINED IN MOZAMBIQUE HAS ALWAYS, PERHAPS, BEEN UNLIKELY. BUT IT IS DISCOURAGING TO SEE THE OLD EUROPEAN "OPPOSITION" OF MOZAM-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BIQUE, NOW THAT IT HAS REACHED THE SEAT OF POWER AFTER YEARS OF HARD AND SOMETIMES COURAGEOUS OPPOSITION TO THE SALAZAR-CAETANO REGIME, PROVING ITSELF ALMOST AS SMUG AND PATERNALISTIC AS WERE ITS PREDECESSORS, AND AS SURE THAT IT HAS BEEN ELECTED BY DESTINY TO DECIDE WHAT IS GOOD FOR THE "PEOPLE". MOREOVER, THE NEW LINE SEEMS BASED ON ASSUMPTIONS ABOUT THE WILL OF A BLACK MAJORITY WITH WHICH THE NEW ESTABLISHMENT HAS VERY LITTLE REAL CONTACT, AND VIEWS ABOUT THE NATURE AND PROGRAM OF FRELIMO WHICH SEEM BASED MAINLY ON WISHFUL THINKING.
VAN OSS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CENSORSHIP, NEWS MEDIA COMMENTS, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 MAY 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974LOUREN00410
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740136-0630
From: LOURENCO MARQUES
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t1974058/aaaaaggi.tel
Line Count: 263
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: A) LOURENCO MARQUES 313 (NOTAL); B), LOURENCO MARQUES
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <24 APR 2002 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <25 MAR 2003 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MOZAMBIQUE PRESS MOVES LEFT
TAGS: PINT, MZ, FRELIMO
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005